



To all Optometrists and  
Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners  
Providing General Ophthalmic Services

January 2014

**GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES (Amendment) REGULATIONS  
(Northern Ireland) 2014**

**MOBILE EYE SERVICE PROVISION**

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety have issued amended GOS Regulations to the Health and Social Care Board in respect of mobile eye service provision. These amended GOS Regulations come into operation on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014. A copy of the amended GOS Regulations is attached but the following points simplify the changes. **Please note that this guidance is NOT a substitute for Regulations and as a contractor you are obliged to ensure that you have a working knowledge of the GOS Regulations.**

**From 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 providers of mobile eye services are asked to note and implement the following:**

**1. Definition of Mobile Services**

Regulation 2 (3) and 2 (4) define mobile eye services and where they can be provided. Providers of mobile services please note that:

“Mobile services” means general ophthalmic services provided at -

- (a) a day care setting;
- (b) a nursing home;
- (c) a residential care home; or
- (d) the patient’s home, where the patient is unable to leave it unaccompanied because of physical or mental illness or disability, which a contractor has made arrangements with the Board to provide;”.

**Please Note: Domiciliary fees are not payable for GOS Sight Tests provided in the day care settings.**

## **2. Requirement for the provision of patient details when providing mobile services**

Amendment of Regulation 17 of the principal Regulation and of Schedule 1 to the principal Regulation make provision of the following details statutory for both routine and emergency mobile eye service provision:

- i. patient's name and address
- ii. sex
- iii. date of birth
- iv. Health and Care number as shown on the patient's medical card
- v. the approximate date of the last testing, if any, of the patient's sight
- vi. the date and approximate time the contractor will provide mobile eye services (for routine and emergency mobile service provision)
- vii. the reasons for the provision of the services (for emergency mobile service provision)

## **3. Provision of Inducements**

Amendment of Schedule 1 to the principal Regulation provides for regulation in respect of the provision of inducements. Providers of mobile eye services are asked to note the following:

(9)The contractor shall not—

- (a) offer any inducement (except any discount or special offer available to patients) to use the mobile services provided by the contractor and in particular no such inducement shall be offered by the contractor, directly or indirectly, to the proprietor, manager or staff of a nursing home, residential care home or day care setting to secure that the contractor is asked or permitted to provide mobile services at that establishment; or
- (b) seek to mislead any person about the availability, quality and extent of the mobile services provided.”.

**PLEASE NOTE: In line with annual quality assurance monitoring by the Health and Social Care Board, this MOS guidance should be read, disseminated and actioned within your practice. Please ensure that all staff within your practice, professional and support (full time/part time or locum) are made aware of these amendments to the GOS Regulations and MOS Guidance.**

**If you have any queries in relation to this guidance please contact Ophthalmic Services at the Business Services Organisation or one of the ophthalmic clinical advisers of the Health and Social Care Board.**



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